

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, CHAIRMAN



JOINT OVERSIGHT HEARING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS:

Financial Management at NASA

Thursday, October 27, 2005, 10:00 AM
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PLATTS

Chairman Calvert, thank you for convening this hearing today and for your continuing an interest in management issues. As you know, my Subcommittee looked at the topic of financial management at NASA last year, and this remains a top priority. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers to ensure accountability, especially during times of tightening budgets.

In order to support America's space program, the Congress – and the public – needs credible, reliable financial data to support the decisions we make, and the Agency must demonstrate effective stewardship over the taxpayer dollars we entrust to them. Management issues cannot be overlooked in the context of the broader policy debate that will shape NASA's future, and I commend you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing that fact. Without sound management and accountability, even the most forward-looking and innovative programs are unlikely to be successful.

Financial management at NASA has produced mixed results – from clean opinions in the 1990s to disclaimers in the past few years. Clearly, this needs to be addressed, and the efforts underway to modernize NASA's financial systems through the Integrated Enterprise Management Program are the key to success. While there have been data conversion problems, it is the IEMP – combined with a strong commitment from NASA's leadership – that will eventually put NASA back on track.

I welcome the opportunity provided by this joint hearing to share my expertise on management issues, and my Subcommittee looks forward to today's hearing and to working closely with you in the future to ensure that NASA has the tools in place to succeed. Thank you.